

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-23 were pending in this application. Within the Office Action mailed January 30, 2007, claims 14-23 are allowed and claims 1-13 and 24. Claims 1, 2, 6, 10, and 24 have been amended, and claim 11 has been canceled. Claims 1-10 and 12-24 are now pending. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in light of the amendments made above and the arguments made below.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Within the final Office Action mailed October 24, 2006, claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,981,055 to Ahuja *et al.* The Office Action mailed January 30, 2007, maintained the rejection of claims 1-13 and 24. The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Ahuja is directed to a method and system for optimizing routing traffic to a destination when multiple routes are available. (Ahuja Abstract) In its Figures 18 and 19, Ahuja discloses a routing optimization component 104 coupled to bridges, routers, and switches. Ahuja does not disclose a mesh directly coupling coordination processes, where the coordination processes are programmed to exchange only routing performance information over the mesh.

Claim 1 is directed to a communications back-channel for coordinating routing decisions. Claim 1 has been amended to recite, “a mesh directly coupling the one or more coordination processes, wherein the one or more coordination processes are programmed to exchange only routing performance information over the mesh.” This limitation is substantially the same limitation recited in the allowed claim 23. Ahuja does not disclose this element. For at least this reason, claim 1 is allowable over Ahuja.

Claims 2-13 and 24 all depend on claim 1; accordingly, claims 2-13 and 24 are all allowable as depending on an allowable base claim.

Claims 2, 6, 10, and 24 have been amended as to form. No new matter has been added to these claims.

Information Disclosure Statement

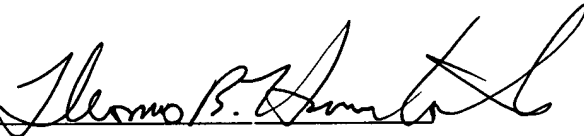
The Applicants ask that the Examiner initial and return an Information Disclosure Statement that was filed before the final Office Action was mailed on October 24, 2006. The Applicants electronically filed an Information Disclosure Statement, EFS ID No. 108134, on July 31, 2006.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons given above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-10 and 12-24 are in condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 so that any outstanding issues can be quickly and efficiently resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
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